

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 NRC-05

OES-07 /080 W

-----009737 201039Z /17

P 200800Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2393 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CG USAGO MACHINATO PRIORITY

CG 313 AD/18TFW, KADENA AFB PRIORITY

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA PRIORITY

CG MARCORB, CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY

OAC CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB PRIORITY

CG 5TH AF, YOKOTA JAPAN PRIORITY

CG USARJ, CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN PRIORITY

COMNAVFORJAPAN, YOKOSUKA, JAPAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC CAMP SMITH, HAWAII PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, PINT, JA

SUBJECT: PM FUKUDA VISITS OKINAWA FOR OPENING OF UPPER HOUSE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: A) NAHA 236 DTG 150816Z JUN 77

B) NAHA 230 DTG 092351Z JUN 77

C) NAHA 212 DTG 190853Z MAY 77

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. PM FUKUDA AND JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA PAID UNPRECE-

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DENTED VISITS TO OKINAWA ON OPENING DAY OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION
CAMPAIGN. DURING VISIT FUKUDA SAID THERE WAS NO CONNECTION
BETWEEN WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM KOREA AND US MILITARY BASES
ON OKINAWA. FUKUDA REFERRED TO DIFFICULTY OF REDUCING US BASES
ON OKINAWA AND SAID GOJ ACCEPTED USG STATEMENTS RE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS ON OKINAWA. AT PRESENT, VOTERS' CONCERN WITH LOCAL
ECONOMY APPEARS TO OVERSHADOW BASE ISSUES WHOSE IMPACT ON

ELECTION REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA PAID 24 HOUR VISITS TO OKINAWA ON OPENING DAY OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, JUNE 17. LOCAL PRESS TERMED SUCH VISITS UNPRECEDENTED AND INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE WHICH LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ATTACH TO WINNING OKINAWA'S ONE LOCAL CONSTITUENCY

SEAT NOW HELD BY LDP DIETMAN INAMINE. (KOMEITO CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI, JCP SECRETARY GENERAL FUHA AND NEW LIBERAL CLUB CHAIRMAN KONO HAD VISITED OKINAWA DURING PREVIOUS WEEK).

3. LOCAL PRESS HIGHLIGHTED PM FUKUDA'S EXPRESSION OF STRONG INTEREST IN OKINAWA AND HIS PROMISE TO WORK URGENTLY TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR CURRENT OKINAWAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF WATER. COMMENT: FUKUDA'S VISIT, WHICH HE SAID WAS HIS SEVENTH, AND HIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN OKINAWAN PROBLEMS IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO FORMER PM MIKI'S REPORTED LACK OF INTEREST AND FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS WHEN HE VISITED OKINAWA.

4. OKINAWA TIMES REPORTED FUKUDA AS HAVING MADE FOLLOWING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO US MILITARY BASES.

A. KOREA.

QUOTE. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES FROM KOREA AND THE OKINAWAN BASES. THERE IS NO PLAN TO BRING US GROUND TROOPS IN KOREA TO OKINAWA. UNQUOTE. (ACCORDING TO RYUKYU SHIMPO, FUKUDA SAID QUOTE EVEN IF US TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTH KOREA, THEY WILL NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BROUGHT INTO OKINAWA NOR DO WE INTEND TO ALLOW (UKEIRERU)

THEIR ENTRY UNQUOTE.)

B. BASE REDUCTION.

QUOTE. THE REDUCTION OF BASES IS QUITE DIFFICULT BUT I WISH TO WORK IN THAT DIRECTION UNQUOTE. (SHIMPO REPORTED QUOTE THE REALIGNMENT AND REDUCTION OF BASES IS NOT EASY BUT I WISH TO PERSIST. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONSOLIDATION AND RELOCATION OF BASES IS IN THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING RESULTS UNQUOTE.)

C. NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

RE RECENT GENSUIKYO ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON OKINAWA (REF A), QUOTE SINCE THE US GOVERNMENT SAYS THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE OKINAWAN BASES, WE CAN NOT BUT TRUST THIS. WE HAVE NO THOUGHT OF CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION OF THE OKINAWAN BASES. UNQUOTE. (SHIMPO REPORTED QUOTE AT THE TIME OF THE REVERSION OF OKINAWA, THE

UNITED STATES VERY SOLEMNLY STATED THAT IT DOES NOT--AND WILL NOT--
HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON OKINAWA. WE CANNOT BUT TRUST THIS
STATEMENT. UNQUOTE.

5. LOCAL PRESS DID NOT GIVE MAJOR ATTENTION EITHER TO FUKUDA
STATEMENTS REPORTED ABOVE OR TO NARITA'S ASSERTION THAT US
WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO STRENGTHENING

OF US BASES HERE AND HIS ENDORSEMENT OF STANDARD
REFORMIST CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY BASES. MEDIA COVERAGE
IN FIRST FEW DAYS OF CAMPAIGN SUGGESTS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES
ARE CONCENTRATING ON OKINAWAN ELECTORATE'S DEEP CONCERN OVER
DEPRESSED STATE AND POOR PROSPECTS OF LOCAL ECONOMY, IN PARTICULAR
PREVAILING HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, REFORMIST CANDIDATE
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DATE FUKUCHI, IS STRESSING FAMILIAR ANTI-BASE THEMES, AND WHETHER
OR NOT OUR MILITARY BASES WILL BE A MAJOR ISSUE THAT WILL IMPACT
ON THE ELECTION OUTCOME REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, UPPER HOUSE, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/487be779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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